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November 14, 2007

The Honorable Robert B. Jones  
Chair, House Committee on Senior Health, Security and Retirement  
State Capitol  
PO Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Jones:

I write to support House Bill 5259, which is scheduled for hearing before your committee on Tuesday, Nov. 27.

The bill, which you have sponsored, would require that hospitals inform persons 65 and older who are admitted that flu vaccination is available upon discharge. The bill responds quite well to a recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control that the most vulnerable patients could be protected if hospitals would offer flu vaccinations when a patient was released.

AARP supports the bill because it represents a fair compromise between the interests of elderly patients and hospitals.

Two pertinent points: the hospital would administer the vaccine only upon request of the patient; and the bill would require hospitals to plan well in advance of the flu season, which in my view would be advantageous for Michigan's elderly population. If you have any questions, please make contact with me.

Thanks for your consideration of this vital issue.

Sincerely,

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